

Please see below the update on the Food Precinct Project. This is a call for Core partners and Foundation members which needs a response by the 21st March 2013 if you are interested. Presume if this is not your area of interest that you will pass on to the appropriate contact in the Company.

Best regards

PETER BUSH

QUOTE

Dear Food Stakeholder,

Over the past few weeks, the proposed Food Precinct Chair- Mr Peter Schutz and Ms Ann Bray, General Manager of Food & Chemicals Branch in the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science, Research and Tertiary Education have been undertaking consultation sessions across Australia with the purpose of raising awareness and to help form a consortium of members (core partners or foundation members) to establish the Food Industry Innovation Precinct.

As per the Draft guidelines for the Industry Innovation Precinct program, eligibility requirements (40 - 42) state that at any one time a Precinct must have among its Core Partners/Foundation Membership:

- a) at least one Australian business; and
- b) at least one Australian research organisation.

An industry association may also participate as a core partner or foundation member.

Foundation Members or Core partners must act in the interest of the sector or industry. As such, core partners must demonstrate their collaborative capacity within and beyond their sector and the ability to create areas of critical mass.

Peter Schutz has a preference for the Food Precinct to be an incorporated public not for profit company that is limited by guarantee based on established precedence from many CRCs and RRDCs. A paper outlining the reasons for this is on the GovDex site that has been set up and which you may already have access to. Such an entity would have a membership rather than shareholders.

Over the next three months, the foundation members will need to agree the structure of the entity; develop the company's constitution; be a member for incorporation purposes; agree on proposed core services and a business plan; agree on governance i.e. board members, committees; agree on a host for the headquarters; select a Managing Director; develop key performance indicators; develop possible projects for the Innovation Collaboration Fund ; develop business requirements for the proposed Industry Innovation network (an IT platform) to service the Precinct. Foundation members are expected to be quite busy in the first three months, until the Precinct is established and the membership is opened up more

broadly. It is preferable but not mandatory that foundation members can bring in-kind contributions to support the Precinct.

To express an interest or if you would like to identify your organisation as a foundation member, please forward your details to FoodatDIISRTE@innovation.gov.au by 21 March 2013.

For background, the Food Industry Innovation Precinct was announced on 17 Feb 2013 by the Hon Greg Combet AM MP, Minister for Industry and Innovation, in the Industry and Innovation Policy Statement - A Plan for Australian Jobs. Please see link at <http://aussiejobs.innovation.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>. In relation to the food industry, the Statement announced the creation of a Food Industry Innovation Precinct which has been seeking partners with industry, research organisations, educational institutes and industry associations to assist to position the whole food supply chain to benefit from the emerging opportunities especially in Asia.

Kind Regards,

FoodatDIISRTE team

UNQUOTE



A Plan for Australian Jobs

The Australian Government's
Industry and Innovation Statement

Food Precinct

The food processing and beverage manufacturing industry is Australia's biggest manufacturing sector. The Food Precinct will support the food processing industry become more strategic, commercially targeted and coordinated in a sustainable way. The Precinct will help develop consumer insight as the basis for a long-term innovation agenda aimed at realising opportunities in the Asian Century. The Precinct will also help speed up the growth of Australian food and beverage firms through training, improved networking and collaboration.

Why the Precinct is important

Collaboration between the food and beverage industry and public research institutions, universities and government needs to be more strategic, commercially targeted and coordinated. The industry is also dominated by small to medium enterprises, many lacking the scale, experience and skills to make the most of the opportunities of the future.

Location

The Precinct will have a base in Melbourne and will also be networked nationally to take advantage of the existing networks in the sector.

What the Precinct will do

The objectives of the Food Precinct are to:

- act as a catalyst for enhanced collaboration between industry, government, universities and researchers and the entire food supply chain
- improve industry capacity and capability to understand consumer and customer needs, in particular providing insights into Asia
- position the food industry to attract investment and increase the market share of Australian processed food exports to existing and emerging markets
- encourage the development of talent and capability across the food manufacturing sector.

Management

The Precinct will be governed by an industry-led Board and include representatives from businesses, the research sector and other stakeholders. The Precinct will have several business participants as well as core research partners, such as CSIRO and Monash University.

Services

The Food Precinct will provide a range of services to participating firms – see [Industry Innovation Precincts and Growth Opportunities and Leadership Development \(GOLD\)](#).